

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 10407 160600Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----104195 160606Z /10  
O 150911Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4887  
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 10407

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y T E X T

E. O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MOPS PBOR MILI SY LE IS  
SUBJ: NON-PAPER ON LEBANON

REF.: STATE 203785

1. FOLLOWING REPRESENTS REACTION TO TUENI "NON-PAPER  
AS SEEN FROM HERE.

2. AS FOR PARA 1, ISRAEL WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH A  
REDEFINITION OF SYRIAN FORCES IF THIS INCLUDES (A) DISENGAGE-  
MENT FROM FLASHPOINTS IN BEIRUT AND (C) GREATER CONTROL OVER  
PALESTINIAN FORCES. WE DONT SEE HOW THE CREATION OF INTER-  
VENTION FORCES IN SPECIFIC LOCATIONS WOULD DIFFER FROM  
PRESENT SITUATION. IF (A) AND (C) COULD BE LEGIMITIZED BY  
AN ARAB MINI-SUMMIT AND HEAVY SYRIAN INFLUENCE ON THE GOL  
DIMINISHED BY AN "ARABIZATION" OF THE SITUATION, SO MUCH THE  
BETTER. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF TUENI'S MENTION OF "AREAS"  
OF PALESTINIAN PREDOMINANCE MEANS REAFFIRMATION OF THE CAIRO

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ACCORDS, THEN HE SHOULD CHECK WITH HIS GOVERNMENT. WALDHEIM  
WAS TOLD IN APRIL IN BEIRUT THAT GOL NO LONGER SEES CAIRO  
ACCORDS IN FORCE.

3. CREATION OF A WALL-TO-WALL NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT IN  
BEIRUT AS SUGGESTED IN PARA. 3 WOULD BE A POSITIVE DEVELOP-  
MENT IF ACCEPTABLE TO ISRAEL'S CHRISTIAN ALLIES. EMBASSY

BEIRUT IS IN A BETTER POSITION TO COMMENT ON THIS QUESTION, BUT WE RECOLLECT THAT CHAMOUN AS WELL AS THE PRO-SYRIANS HAVE BEEN EQUALLY ADAMANT AGAINST SERVING IN THE SAME CABINET.

4. ISRAELIS WOULD WORRY THAT A UN FACT-FINDING MISSION (PARA 5) TO INVESTIGATE THE SITUATION IN THE SOUTH WOULD BE A TACTIC TO PUT THE GOI ON THE SPOT AND TO PIN RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CURRENT IMBROGLIO ON JERUSALEM. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE GOI WOULD LOOK MORE FAVORABLY ON A UN MISSION TASKED WITH DEALING WITH THE QUESTION OF GENERAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR LEBANON, NORTH AND SOUTH. INDEED, DURING THE SECRETARY'S VISIT, BEGIN INDICATED HIS INTEREST IN THE UN, EVEN UNIFIL, PLAYING A ROLE IN REDUCING THE VIOLENCE IN BEIRUT.

5. PARA 6 SUGGESTION THAT AN EFFORT BE MADE TO SEARCH FOR A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE OF NON-SYRIAN CONTINGENTS IN THE ADF WOULD BE SEEN AS A GOOD IDEA HERE IF SYRISCS AFFECTED WENT HOME. WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND TUENI'S THOUGHT RE UNIFIL. IS HE SAYING UNIFIL WOULD HAVE ROLE IN THE NORTH (ISRAEL WOULD ENTHUSIAS- TICALLY SUPPORT)? DOES HE MEAN UNIFIL SHOULD USE ARMS TO BRING PALESTINIANS UNDER CONTROL (A MOST UNLIKELY POSSIBILITY) OR PERHAPS PLAY A MORE FORMAL LIAISON ROLE THAN THEY ARE ALREADY DOING (WHICH ISRAEL DECIDELY WOULD NOT CARE FOR)?

6. AS FOR THE LIKELIHOOD OF THE LEBANESE ARMY AND INTERNAL SECRET

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SECURITY FORCES ABSORBING AND DISARMING ALL MILITIAS (PARA 7), THAT WILL BE THE DAY.

7. PARA 8 SUGGESTION OF AN NSC WITH CONTROL OVER ALL FORCES STRIKES US AS UNREALISTIC. WE FIND IT UNLIKELY THAT ASSAD WOULD LET ANYONE ELSE GIVE ORDERS TO THE SYRIAN FORCES IN LEBANON.

8. ISRAELIS WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEMS WITH INTENSIVE DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS (PARA 9) TO PREPARE FOR A MINI-SUMMIT (PARA 10) IF THE END RESULT IS TO PMINISH DAMASCUS'S INFLUENCE IN LEBANON AND GET THE SYRIAN ARMY OFF THE CHRISTIANS.

9. WE ARE CONFUSED BY TUENI'S DESIRE TO SEE ISRAEL CALL OFF THE LEBANESE "OPTION" (PARA 10), WHATEVER PRECISELY THAT IS. ISRAELIS WOULD ARGUE THAT IF THE SYRIANS WOULD BACK OFF

FROM THEIR EFFORTS TO BREAK THE CHRISTIANS AND TURN LEBANON  
INTO A CLIENT STATE, THEN ISRAELI INVOLVEMENT IN LEBANON COULD  
BE REDUCED. LEWIS

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE BEIRUT MULTIPLE  
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